

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

## PATENT APPLICATION

entitled: **PROCESS FOR MONITORING THE CONSUMPTIONS OF  
FRANKING MACHINES**

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**assigned to:** NEOPOST INDUSTRIE

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

According to the process for monitoring the consumptions of a plurality of franking machines through a public communication network, at least one franking machine not being connected to this network, a link is firstly established with a management server, through the public network, by means of at least one supervision terminal independent of the off-line franking machine, in accordance with a determined protocol of communication, and data is then exchanged between the terminal and the server during which the user acquires at the supervision terminal a current invoicing index relative to the off-line franking machine and receives in return a code of authorization to frank in order to validate the subsequent frankings of the off-line franking machine.